

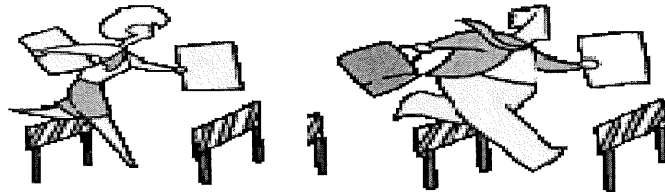


CITY OF MILPITAS

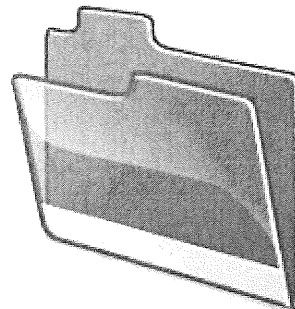
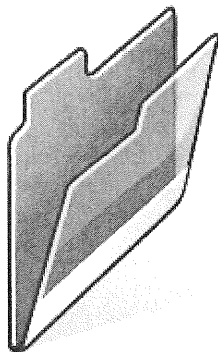
455 EAST CALAVERAS BOULEVARD, MILPITAS, CALIFORNIA 95035-5479
GENERAL INFORMATION: 408-586-3000, www.ci.milpitas.ca.gov

6/19/2018

Agenda Item No. 21



ATTACHMENT RELATED TO AGENDA ITEM AFTER AGENDA PACKET DISTRIBUTION



June 19, 2018

Milpitas Mayor Tran, Vice Mayor Grilli and Councilmembers
455 East Calaveras Blvd.
Milpitas, CA 95035

City Clerk's Office

JUN 19 2018

RECEIVED

RE: Support for ITEM #21 – Suicide Prevention Policy

Dear Mayor, Vice Mayor and Councilmembers,

The Bay Area Municipal Elections Committee (BAYMEC) has advocated for the civil rights of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender (LGBT) people since 1984. On behalf of BAYMEC, we are writing to urge you to support ITEM #21 – Suicide Prevention Policy, submitted by Vice Mayor Grilli.

Suicide is the second leading cause of death among young people ages 10 to 24 in the nation, and LGBTQ youth are disproportionately impacted by thoughts of suicide and suicide attempts. LGBTQ youth are almost 3 times as likely to seriously contemplate suicide as their heterosexual peers, and almost 5 times more likely to have attempted suicide compared to their heterosexual peers. LGBTQ youth who come from highly rejecting families are 8.4 times as likely to have attempted suicide compared to youth from more accepting homes. In a region where LGBTQ youth comprise between 30 and 40 percent of our homeless youth population—many of whom are homeless because they were rejected by their families—this is an issue of immediate concern to us.

Among the transgender community, 40 percent of trans adults report having attempted suicide, and 92 percent of those individuals attempted before the age of 25.

Suicide is a preventable tragedy that affects far too many—especially, though by no means exclusively, among the LGBTQ community. Stigma and shame unnecessarily perpetuate the problem, increase risk and harm our individual attempts at intervention. A suicide prevention policy would bring attention to this issue, helping to reduce stigma and to increase awareness and understanding. Now is the time for Milpitas to act on this issue.

We respectfully request that you support Vice Mayor Grilli's proposal. Thank you for your consideration and leadership on this issue. We hope that you will vote in support of ITEM #21 – Suicide Prevention Policy.

Sincerely,

James Gonzales
President, BAYMEC

Paul Escobar
Vice President, BAYMEC